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BISHOP AUCKLAND URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

1958



Health Department,
The Elms,
Silver Street,
Market Place,
Bishop Auckland.

BISHOP AUCKLAND URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.
HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Annual Report 1958.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your district for the year 1958.

The Vital Statistics show that the health of your urban district continues to be very satisfactory.

There has not been a maternal death, nor a case of Poliomyelitis or Diphtheria during the year.

The birth rate is well above last year, but the death rate is somewhat higher too. Of the 443 deaths, just about half (224) were over 70 years of age - 89 of these being over 80 years. Diseases of the cardiovascular system accounted for 248.

The still birth rate is down and is well below the corresponding rate for England and Wales.

The infant mortality rate is only about half of what it was last year. This is the first time the urban district has been below the average for the country as a whole. Of the 16 infant deaths which occurred during the year four were due to prematurity; five to infection; three to abnormalities; three to asphyxia - each of these due to a different cause; and one to birth trauma.

There was an increase in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever from 25 to 33, but a big reduction in both Measles and Whooping Cough.

The notifications of Pneumonia have exactly halved those for last year resulting in eight deaths.

The number of cases of lung Cancer has increased from eight in 1956 to 10 in 1957, and this year is 12. This increase is taking place all over the country. I doubt if we will see any reduction in cigarette smoking until we, as a profession, take personally to heart the strong statistical connection between lung cancer and smoking. To prevent the teenager starting to smoke should be the main aim.

The notifications of pulmonary Tuberculosis dropped by two, but the non-pulmonary increased by three.

Details of the Mass Miniature Radiography Unit's visit are given later in the report. There was a poor response - only 1897 out of a population of over 35,000 attended. Three cases of active Tuberculosis were discovered and another two who required occasional supervision.

I would like to acknowledge the courtesy and consideration extended to me by my Council, and express my thanks to the staff of the Health Department for another year's conscientious work.

AREA AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The area of the district is 9,336 acres. The estimated population in mid 1958 was 35,380, an increase of 110 on the previous year's estimate.

The rateable value at the end of 1958 was £298,814 and the product of a penny rate £1148.

The number of inhabited houses according to the Council's rate books was, at the end of 1958, 11,265.

VITAL STATISTICS.

In the following extracts from the vital statistics of the district the corrected figures as supplied by the Registrar General have been used and the rates quoted are based on the above mentioned estimated population.

Live Births.	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate.	682	349	333
Illegitimate.	32	14	18
TOTAL.	714	363	351

The crude live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population is 20.18, the standard birth rate is 19.37. The corresponding rate for England and Wales is 16.4.

Still Births	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate.	13	10	3
Illegitimate.	--	--	-
TOTAL.	13	10	3

Rate per 1,000 live and still births, crude - 18.21; standard 17.48.

The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 21.6.

DEATHS.

After correction for outwardly and inwardly transferable deaths a total of 443 (259 males and 184 females) deaths of residents were recorded during the year, giving a crude death rate of 12.52 per 1,000 and a standard death rate of 14.65 per 1,000 of the estimated population. The death rate for England and Wales as a whole in 1958 was 11.7. Cardio-vascular diseases accounted for 248 of the total deaths.

Deaths of infants under one year of age.

Six male and ten female infants died during the year before attaining their first birthday. One male was illegitimate. Of these five legitimate males and six legitimate females and 1 illegitimate male died before the age of four weeks.

Mortality rate per 1,000 live births - crude 22.41: standard - 21.51.

The rate in England and Wales in 1958 was 22.5, an unprecedented low record for the country.

The following table gives the number of deaths recorded from various causes during the year.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	M	F	TOTAL.
Lung Cancer.	10	2	12
Other Cancers.	20	26	46
Leukaemia.	2	2	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	41	37	78
Coronary disease, angina.	57	33	90
Hypertension with heart disease.	5	3	8
Other heart disease.	30	25	55
Other circulatory diseases.	15	10	25
Pneumonia.	3	5	8
Bronchitis.	17	7	24
Other respiratory diseases.	3	0	3
Gastric or duodenal ulcer.	2	2	4
Gastritis and enteritis.	1	0	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis.	1	4	5
Diabetes.	0	0	0
Hyperplasia of Prostate.	5	0	5
Congenital malformations.	2	3	5
Motor vehicle accidents.	3	0	3
All other accidents.	11	6	17
Suicide.	3	4	7
Tuberculosis (all forms).	7	2	9
Influenza.	1	0	1
Other infections.	1	0	1
Pregnancy, childbirth.	0	0	0
Meningococcal infections.	0	0	0
Syphilitic diseases.	1	0	1
All other causes than those specified.	18	13	31
- T O T A L .	259	184	443

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the number of cases notified and the deaths from the various infectious diseases (excluding tuberculosis) which occurred during 1958. Of these infectious diseases the following relate to persons not normally resident in this area:-

Puerperal Pyrexia 3 (One each from Shildon U.D.; Crook and Willington U.D.; and Darlington R.D.)

Polioomyelitis 1 (from Crook and Willington U.D.)

Dysentery 5 (3 from Crook and Willington U.D.; 1 from Darlington R.D.; and 1 from Sedgfield R.D.).

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Total number after corrected diagnosis.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Total deaths.
Meningococcal Infection	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	33	33	6	0
Smallpox	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0
Enteric Fever	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia	46	46	1	8
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	4	1	0
Measles	130	130	0	0
Whooping Cough	158	158	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0	0
Dysentery	14	14	6	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	1	0
Acute Encephalitis	0	0	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0	0
Food Poisoning	0	0	0	0
T O T A L	386	386	15	8

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table shows, in arrangement by age groups, the number of new cases notified and of deaths from tuberculosis occurring in the district during the year.

In addition to those enumerated in the table, two males died from pulmonary tuberculosis who were not notified as suffering from the disease prior to death.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
5 -	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 -	4	3	2	-	-	1	1	-
25 -	4	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
35 -	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 -	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 -	4	-	-	1	2	-	-	-
65 and over.	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
1958	16	8	4	1	3	2	2	-
1957	17	9	-	2	2	2	-	-
1956	5	14	2	2	1	1	-	-
1955	15	9	1	-	3	3	1	-
1954	13	7	2	1	7	5	-	-
1953	15	19	2	2	6	6	-	1
1952	23	21	1	3	6	9	-	2
1951	18	11	-	2	11	10	1	-
1950	22	32	3	8	9	5	1	4
1949	17	21	7	6	12	9	1	2

In the reports for 1955, 1956 and 1957 reference was made to the special consideration given by the Council to housing applicants from a home containing a sufferer from pulmonary tuberculosis. This special consideration was continued during 1958 when 3 such families were re-housed in adequate modern dwellings.

Mass Miniature Radiography.

The following statistics for 1958 relate to this district:-

	M	F	Tot:
Attendances	828	1069	1897
Recalled	33	25	58
Referred to Chest Clinic	7	7	14

Of the numbers referred to the Chest Clinic:-

- 3 were found to be suffering from active tuberculosis.
- 2 required occasional supervision.
- 3 had acquired cardiac conditions.
- 9 were suffering from pneumoconiosis.
- 12 were listed under other conditions.
- 1 failed to attend for a large film.

WATER.

The town's water works continues to serve a population of about 13,000. A constant supply is maintained without restrictions. 3,407 houses are supplied with good quality water at a very reasonable cost. Samples have been taken regularly each fortnight from various parts of the district for bacteriological examination by the Public Analyst and the result of these have been consistently good. All houses and premises in the district served by the works have been examined at least twice during the year, and the older parts of the town have had a special and more frequent inspection.

Monthly consumption of water is as follows:-

Jan.	15,747,000.	May.	15,468,000.	Sep.	13,486,000.
Feb.	13,531,000.	Jun.	15,152,000.	Oct.	14,252,000.
Mar.	15,203,000.	Jul.	15,579,000.	Nov.	14,214,000.
Apr.	15,368,000.	Aug.	14,873,000.	Dec.	15,212,000.

A total of 178,085,000 gallons for the year.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The sewage purification works at Vinovium has continued to function fairly satisfactorily under very overloaded conditions. This overloading has increased as more conversions to the water carriage system have been carried out, and more new houses built.

The final effluent, although fully oxidised, has been most unsatisfactory with regard to suspended solids.

The River Board's standard of an effluent of about 30 parts per million suspended solids has never been reached. During peak flow it has actually been as high as 150 parts per million.

This works also treats sewage from parts of Spennymoor Urban District, Shildon Urban District and Barnard Castle Rural District.

SPECIAL HEALTH SERVICES.

(a) Immunisation against Diphtheria.

The following children were treated during the year in their homes, doctors' surgeries or County clinics:-

- 147 children received primary full courses of immunisation treatment.
- 73 children received "booster" doses.

This is a very poor response indeed.

200 children received primary combined diphtheria and pertussis vaccinations and 7 children received "booster" doses.

(b) Smallpox Vaccination.

287 primary vaccinations and 23 re-vaccinations were carried out during the year.

(c) Polio-myelitis Vaccination.

The number of vaccinations carried out during the year (all groups) was as follows:-

First Injection - 190 children born between the years 1943 - 1958.
127 persons born between 1942 - 1933.
1 expectant mother.

Second Injection- 1943 children born between 1943 - 1958.
38 persons born between 1942 - 1933.
43 expectant mothers.
32 general practitioners and families.
13 ambulance drivers and families.

(d) Whooping Cough.

42 children were vaccinated against whooping cough.

MEAT INSPECTION.

During the year 100% inspection was attained in the course of 1606 visits to the eight licensed slaughterhouses. In all, the carcasses and organs of 15,708 animals were inspected.

Although the number of animals slaughtered was about the same as in 1957, it is interesting to note that the incidence of tuberculosis fell by more than 50%. A large percentage of the condemnations shown as "other diseases" is due to an infection of the livers of cattle, cows and sheep caused by the liver fluke *Fasciola Hepatica*. This parasite causes irritation of the bile ducts, which enlarge and calcify, and a proliferation of the fibrous tissue. The liver becomes unmarketable and due to its appearance receives the descriptive nomenclature of being "hobnail".

The incidence of *Cysticercosis* increases.

The cyst of *Cysticerci Bovis* is round or oval and varies in size from a pinhead to that of a pea. It is located in various predilection sites, viz, the internal and external muscles of the cheeks, heart and diaphragm of cattle and cows, and these organs are incised during routine examination. If the meat is eaten raw or not sufficiently cooked, man ingests the cysts from which a tapeworm (*Taenia Saginata*) 10 ft. to 25 ft. in length develops

in the intestines. The life cycle is completed when the tapeworm host excretes live segments containing eggs and these are eaten by bovines who become the intermediate hosts.

The importance of maintaining 100% inspection in order to prevent as far as is possible such meat from being retailed is thus easily appreciated.

SLAUGHTERING AND SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

In the urban district eight slaughterhouses are licensed, viz:- one at Witton Park; one at Etherley Dene; two at West Auckland; one at Coundon Grange; three in Bishop Auckland.

During the year, for the purposes of meat inspection, a total 1606 visits were made to the premises.

In 1958, thirty three licences authorising the holders to slaughter or stun animals were issued.

The legislation governing slaughterhouses and slaughtering was made more complex by the issue of the Slaughterhouse Act, 1958 and the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958.

The law relating to this work is now contained in five major Acts and numerous Regulations. The Slaughterhouses Act, apart from amending four other Acts, contains provision for issuing new Regulations regulating and prescribing minimum standards of construction, hygiene and the prevention of cruelty to animals.

The provisions for the granting of new licences in the various designated areas have been revised. Section 151(1) of the 1937 Factories Act has been amended and so brings within the scope of the Factories Acts of 1937 and 1948 all slaughter houses and knackers' yards, including lairages. This deals with the safety, health and welfare of workers in these premises.

Section 3 of the Act requires, in due course, all local authorities to review and report to the Minister on:-

- (a) the existing and probable future requirements of their districts for slaughterhouse facilities, and
- (b) the facilities which are, or are likely to become, available to meet those requirements.

In the report, the local authority will have to recommend a date on which the Minister might apply the new construction standards for hygiene, etc. It will also include those premises that already conform to these standards; those that do not conform but will be expected to do so; and those that it is expected cannot conform.

An Order issued on the 1st. January, 1959. appoints the 2nd. November, 1959 as the earliest day by which local authorities shall submit their reports to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and they must be submitted not later than twelve months after the appointed day.

The need, even though so complex, for legislation and the standards prescribed has been evident for a long time. It is hoped that some future trend will regulate slaughtering hours and to cut out the hours of overtime, particularly on Sundays, that have to be spent inspecting meat.

The following is a summary of meat inspection during 1958

	Cattle ex Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed.	3567	749	43	6187	5162
Number inspected.	3567	749	43	6187	5162
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS & CYSTICERCI.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	1	1	--	2	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	869	191	--	150	98
Percentage affected.	24.31	25.63	--	2.45	1.95
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	3	1	1	----	----
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	118	36	--	----	62
Percentage affected.	3.39	4.94	2.32	----	1.19
<u>CYSTICERCOSIS.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	----	----	--	----	----
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	11	2	--	----	----
Percentage affected.	0.31	0.26	--	----	----
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration.	----	----	--	----	----
Generalised or totally condemned.	----	----	--	----	----

The following other foodstuffs were condemned:-

80 tins ham; 490 tins meat; 525 tins fruit; 635 tins vegetables; 80 tins soup; 116 tins milk; 3 tins cream; 43 tins fish; 1 jar coffee; 1 jar pickles;

1½ lb. pork sausage; 18 lb. beef sausage; 8 lb. tongue; 10 tons 19 cwt. potatoes.

FOOD PREMISES.

The following are the numbers of the various types of food premises in the area:-

176 General Dealers.	21 premises where or from milk only is retailed.
10 Greengrocers and/or Fruiterers.	35 Butchering and small meats manufacturing premises.
36 Confectioners.	20 snack bars, cafés or restaurants.
5 Wet Fish Shops.	29 General Grocery shops.
22 Fried Fish and Chip Shops.	
14 Bakehouses.	

Thirty premises are registered for the manufacture and sale of small meats, sausages, etc.

Seven premises are registered for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice-cream.

121 premises are registered for the sale and storage of ice-cream.

47 premises are registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations for the distribution of milk.

During the year 55 licences were issued to use special designations in milk retail, shown as follows:-

- 37 licences issued to use the designation PASTEURISED.
- 3 licences issued to use the designation TUBERCULIN TESTED.
- 13 licences issued to use the designation STERILISED.
- 1 Supplementary licence issued to use the designation PASTEURISED.
- 1 Supplementary licence issued to use the designation TUBERCULIN TESTED.

FOOD SAMPLING.

Bacteriological Examinations of Food and Water.

During the year 30 samples of ice cream were collected from manufacturers or retailers within the area. These samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Newcastle upon Tyne, and were graded as follows:-

- 8 were classed provisional Grade 1.
- 4 were classed provisional Grade 2.
- 6 were classed provisional Grade 3.
- 12 were classed provisional Grade 4.

One manufacturer's ice cream was graded 4 in six successive samples. This caused no inconsiderable amount of concern. Inspections were made

to the premises with a view to ascertaining the cause of this high bacteria content ice-cream. It was ultimately found that the sterilising process was at fault, and when this was corrected a purer ice-cream was obtained.

Also during the year, 23 samples of water, as supplied by Durham County Water Board, were collected from domestic dwellings. Five of these were found to contain a high bacteria count, but further sampling from the taps (sterilised and unsterilised) showed a personal contamination at the point of collection.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

No statutory notices were served during the year, compliance being obtained in each case by informal action.

The register showed that during the year of 1958 the number of factories in the district was as follows:-

Where mechanical power is used	135
Where mechanical power is not used	17

a total of 152.

These were classified as:-

Food manufacture and processing	26
Engineering and allied trades	62
Clothing, footwear and textiles	20
Miscellaneous	44

Contraventions.

Informal notices were served for:-

Want of cleanliness	4
Unreasonable temperature	2
Sanitary Conveniences	
(a) Insufficient.	1
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	6
(c) Not separate for sexes.	1

Number of factories on Register	152
Number of factories visited.	45
Number of visits made.	59
Number of factories found to be lacking in some respect.	14
Number of factories where faults were remedied.	14
Number of written notices (informal)	14

SLUM CLEARANCE.

In May, seventeen Clearance Orders were made, involving the following areas and houses:-

AREAS.HOUSES.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) Bondgate, Bishop Auckland. | 25, 26. |
| 2) Wear Chare & The Batts,
Bishop Auckland. | 25, 26, 27, 28; 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7,
8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13. |
| 3) Dial Stob Hill (No. 1).
Bishop Auckland. | 1, 2, 3, 4, 4b, 5, 5b, 6, 6b, 7, 7b, 8. |
| 4) Dial Stob Hill (No. 2).
Bishop Auckland. | Castle Cottage, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15. |
| 5) Low Dial Stob Hill,
Bishop Auckland. | 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14,
15, 16. |
| 6) Jock's Row (No. 1).
Bishop Auckland. | 17, 18, 19, 20. |
| 7) Jock's Row, (No. 2),
Bishop Auckland. | 25, 26, 27. |
| 8) Dell Bank Cottages,
Bishop Auckland. | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. |
| 9) George Pit, Escomb. | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. |
| 10) Bankfoot Cottages, Leasingthorne. | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. |
| 11) Dixon's Row, Coundon Grange. | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. |
| 12) Wharton Street, Coundon. | 5, 6, 7, 8. |
| 13) Back Church Street, Coundon. | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9. |
| 14) The Barracks, St. Helen's. | 5, 6, 7, 8. |
| 15) New Street (No. 1).
West Auckland. | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. |
| 16) New Street (No. 2),
West Auckland. | 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17. |
| 17) New Street (No. 3),
West Auckland. | 20, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31,
32, 33, 34. |

A Public Inquiry was held in the Town Hall on the 27th. August, 1958, when a number of Objectors to seven of the Orders were heard. All the areas were subsequently confirmed with the exclusion of No. 20, New Street, West Auckland.

UNFIT HOUSES.

1. Houses demolished.

In Clearance Areas.

Houses unfit for human
habitation.

Not in Clearance Areas.

Action under S.17(1)
Housing Act, 1957.

Unfit houses closed.

Action under S.16(4), 17(1),
35(1), Housing Act, 1957.

Houses Demolished	Displacement	
	Persons	Families
98	402	123
2	.5	2
2	15	2

2. Unfit houses where defects were remedied.

	By Owner.	By Local Authority.
a. After informal action by local authority.	108	--
b. After formal action under		
i. Public Health Act.	39	-
ii. Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957.	1	-

RENT ACT, 1957.

1. Applications for Certificates of Disrepair.

Number of Applications for Certificates.	82
Number of decisions not to issue Certificates.	2
Number of decisions to issue Certificates.	
a. In respect of some but not all the defects.	87
b. In respect of all the defects.	39
Number of Undertakings given by landlords under Para. 5 of the first schedule.	85
Number of Undertakings refused by local authority under proviso to Para. 5 of the first schedule.	0
Number of Certificates issued.	34

2. Applications for Cancellation of Certificates.

Applications by landlords to local authority for cancellation of Certificates.	5
Objections by tenants to cancellation Certificates.	1
Decisions by local authority to cancel in spite of tenant's objection.	3
Certificates cancelled by local authority.	8

NEW HOUSES.

In 1958 a total of 157 new houses or flats were provided in the urban district. This was an increase of 35 over 1957. Of this number 124 were built by the Council; 25 by private enterprise; 2 houses converted into 4 flats; and 5 houses built by the Durham County Council. In addition one factory premises was converted back to a dwelling house.

Compared with 1957, the figures are as follows:-

	1957	1958
Houses built by Council.	76	124
Houses built by private enterprise.	33	25
Houses built by the Crown.	3	0
Houses built by Durham County Council.	7	5
Houses converted into flats (two each)	3	2
Houses converted from factory premises.	0	1
<u>T O T A L .</u>	<u>122</u>	<u>157</u>

GENERAL PUBLIC HEALTH SUMMARY.

	Number of Inspections.	Number of Informal Notices served.	Number of Formal Notices Served.	Defects Remedied.
Public Health and Housing Acts.	1682	139	26	148
Inspections for outstanding notices.	631	---	---	---
Sanitary Conveniences - Insufficient.	8	8	---	6
- Defective.	110	60	5	45
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act.	126	10	---	10
Drainage.	312	52	5	50
Water supply.	26	16	2	16
Tents, vans, etc.,	49	---	---	---
Miscellaneous visits.	732	---	---	---
Keeping of Animals.	10	6	---	6
Insanitary AC.s and receptacles.	24	20	---	10
Offensive accumulations.	6	6	---	6
Interviews.	514	---	---	---
Pet Animals Act.	12	---	---	---

CONVERSIONS TO WATER CARRIAGE.

During the year a total of 341 conservancy type closets were converted to the water carriage system.

Number of conversions carried out by owners.	70
Number of conversions carried out under local authority schemes.	271

At the end of the year, the various types of sanitary conveniences in the urban district were as follows:-

Water Closets.
Ashclosets.
Ashpits and ashpit privies.

11462
1725
145

Over the period of five years, commencing 1954, a total of 1511 conversions have been completed, and the staging of these is shown in the following comparative table.

Year	Conversions by Owners.	Conversions by L. A.	Total
1954	110	317	427
1955	117	34	151
1956	115	232	347
1957	57	188	245
1958	70	271	341
	469	1042	1511

RODENT CONTROL.

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, provides that the occupier of any land (other than agricultural land) shall give notice in writing to the local authority if it comes to his knowledge that rats and/or mice are living on or resorting to the land in substantial numbers.

Although not obligatory, the Council provides a FREE service to domestic households for the destruction of these pests, and a time and material charge service to other premises. The use of WARFARIN, an anti-coagulant poison has proved most beneficial particularly where Block treatments have been carried out.

Many domestic animal keepers would save endless trouble and expense if suitable rat proofing was taken as a routine measure. Removal of refuse, piles of debris, protection of feeding stuffs and prompt removal of waste all pay dividends in preventing the harbouring of rats and resultant wanton damage.

Older methods of rodent treatment consisted of pre-baiting with a suitable bait such as sausage rusk for four days, and then using a poison like zinc phosphide on the fifth day. The use of Warfarin eliminates this as the baits are poisoned from the commencement and the victims do not know that poison is being ingested with cumulative effects.

As will be seen from the following table 814 inspections were carried out and rats were found on property in 426 minor infestations and 61 major infestations. The figures for mice were 26 minor and no major infestations. In all the number of premises treated during the year was 513 and the total treatments carried out 226.

It was necessary to serve eight notices to have premises rat-proofed.

	Type of Property.				
	Local Authority (1)	Dwelling Houses. (2)	All Other Premises. (3)	Totals of Cols. 1, 2, 3. (4)	Agricultural (5)
Number of Premises in area.	61	11152	1832	13045	104
Number of Premises inspected as a result of					
(a) Notification.	30	400	47	477	4
(b) Survey under the Act.	--	----	----	----	----
(c) Otherwise.	2	30	----	32	----
Total Inspections carried out. (Including re-inspections)	95	552	154	801	13
Number of Premises inspected which were found to be infested by:-					
(a) Rats. (Major	16	38	4	58	3
(Minor	16	376	33	425	1
(b) Mice (Major	--	----	----	----	----
(Minor	--	16	10	26	----
Number of infested premises treated	32	430	47	509	4
Total treatments carried out.	32	145	45	222	4
Number of Notices served for:-					
(a) Treatment.	--	----	----	----	--
(b) Proofing.	--	7	1	8	--
Number of "Block" treatments.	--	15	2	17	--

CLEANSING

Collection and Disposal of Refuse.

The Urban District of Bishop Auckland has an area of 9336 acres and a population estimated at 35,380, and the collection of refuse from all parts is carried out by ten vehicles manned by twenty five men.

The increasing number of semi-detached houses, with long paths to the rear, and open spaces on housing estates creates extra distances for vehicles and men. This is partly compensated by the conversion of ash-closets and the continued demolition of slum property.

Despite various difficulties, non the least of which was the staff shortage occasioned by holidays and sickness, a once weekly collection service was reasonably attained during the year.

Three refuse tips are used, viz, Witton Park, Newfield and Black Boy, Gurney Valley. It is to the latter that the major portion is conveyed and where, with the use of a small bulldozer, a form of controlled tipping is practiced.

During the year 8,966 loads of refuse were collected and disposed.

WASTE PAPER.

The collection and disposal of waste paper was expanded during the year. The number of refuse collection districts was reduced from ten to nine by judicious planning, thus enabling one vehicle to be engaged in the collection of waste paper and trade refuse; and occasionally used to help other vehicles during staff shortage. This alteration has, however, streamlined the collection of salvage, and now those premises requiring a once weekly collection should receive it. During the year 320 loads of salvage were collected. The paper was baled at Newton Cap destructor, and, towards the latter part of the year, also at South Church, where a second baling machine was repaired and put to use.

INCOME.

The quantity of paper sent, baled, to the Thames Board Mills continues to increase, and this year totalled 63.3 tons, which was more than a 50% increase over 1957.

	1957	1958
Income from paper sales	£315. 0. 0.	£474.15. 0.
Income from sale of scrap	£ 41.15. 0.	£ 21.15. 0.
Income from Trade Refuse collection	£156. 0. 0.	£399. 0. 0.
Total income from all sources	£512.15. 0.	£895.10. 0.

The total income as shown is a 74.6% increase over the previous year.

STAFF.

The following table shows time lost in days due to sickness during the year as compared with 1956 and 1957.

NUMBER OF DAYS LOST DUE TO SICKNESS.			
Month	1956	1957	1958
January	41	72	31
February	73	35	63
March	37	47	79
April	20	44	60
May	24	17	40
June	35	2	8
July	47	5	27
August	57	14	16
September	28	82	41
October	43	32	85
November	15	17	37
December	35	25	2
T O T A L	455	392	489

The total number of working days available during the year was 6656.

The total time, in days, lost from all causes was 508, and this represents a loss over the year of 7.63% as against 6.90% in 1956 and 6.05% in 1957.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

J. M. HEGARTY.

Medical Officer of Health.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF.

The following are the principal members of your Health Department Staff.

J.M. Hegarty, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O., D.P.H., part time Medical Officer of Health, Bishop Auckland U.D.C; Assistant County (Area No. 10) Medical Officer.

R. Snowden, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., M.R.I.P.H.H., D.S.A.A., Associate of the Institute of Fuel.
Certificated Meat and Other Foods Inspector.
Certificated Smoke Inspector.
Chief Public Health Inspector, and Meat Inspector.
Shops Act Inspector.

J.R. Lyle, M.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.C.,
Certificated Meat and Other Foods Inspector.
Public Health Inspector and Meat Inspector.

E. Young, Pupil Public Health Inspector.

M. Cosgrove, Pupil Public Health Inspector.

T.K. Crosby, Health Department Clerk.

With the appointment of two Pupil Public Health Inspectors, the Department now exceeds by one (numerically) the number of staff employed in 1938. Since 1939 the number of staff employed has always been less than that of 1938.

APPENDIX.

Comparisons in Vital Statistics etc., during the years 1949 - 1958.

VITAL STATISTICS	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Crude Birth Rate.	20.9	17.9	18.8	17.4	17.9	18.3	17.6	17.3	18.6	20.2
Crude Death Rate.	11.7	12.2	14.5	11.6	11.2	11.6	11.0	11.6	11.4	12.5
Crude Infant Mortality Rate.	33.1	35.0	35.5	27.3	21.3	35.1	38.5	30.6	35.1	22.4

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases notified.

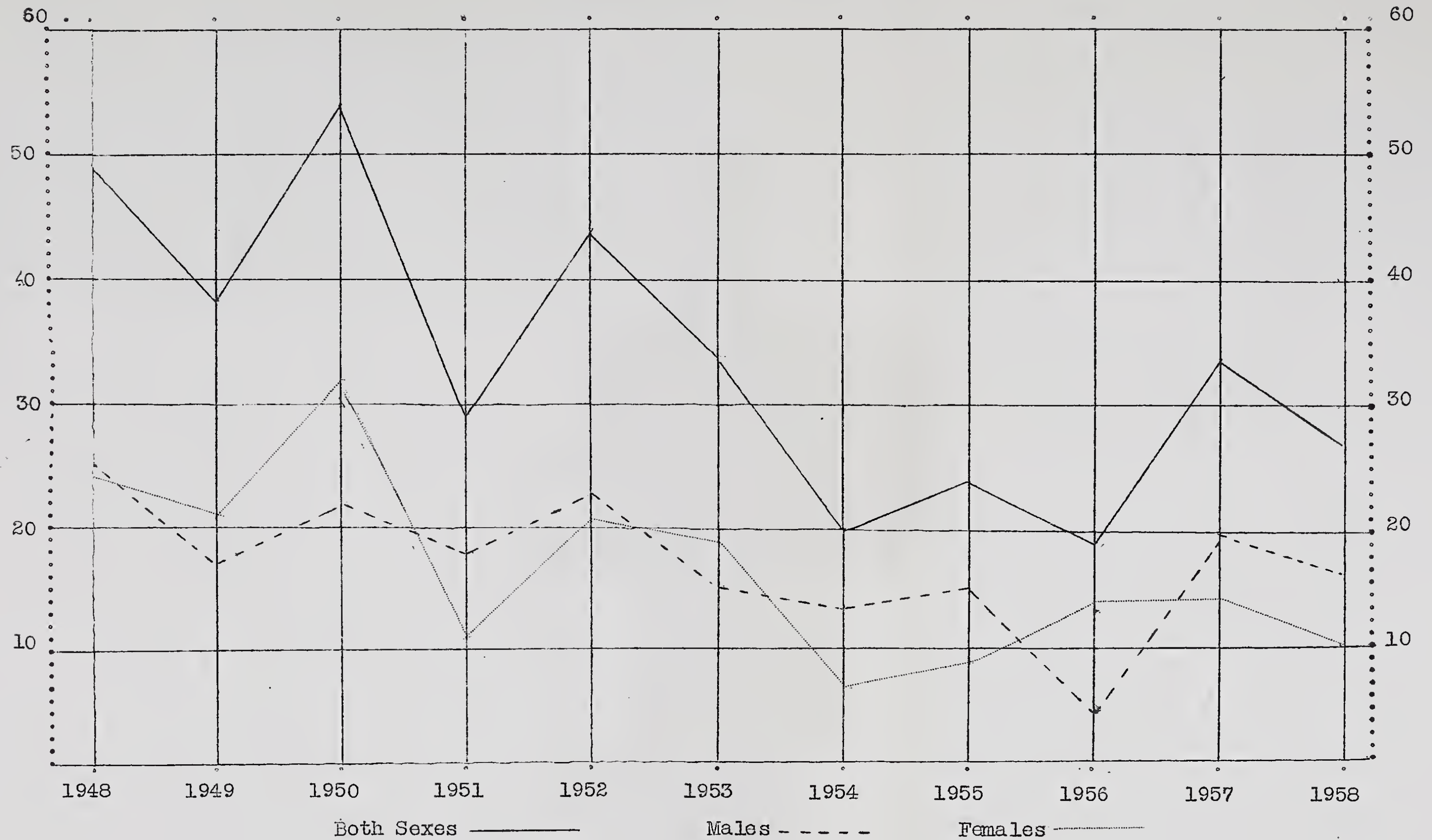
	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Pulmonary Cases.	38	54	29	44	34	20	24	19	26	24
Non Pulmonary Cases.	13	11	2	4	4	3	1	4	2	5

INFECTIOUS DISEASES - Notifications and Deaths.

	1949		1950		1951		1952		1953		1954		1955		1956		1957		1958	
	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D
Acute Poliomyelitis.	6	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	8	-	-	-	1	-
Meningococcal Infection.	-	-	3	-	2	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
Diphtheria.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery.	6	-	12	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	17	-	36	-	-	-	10	-	14	-
Encephalitis Lethargica.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	5	1	-	-
Erysipelas.	3	-	7	-	1	-	6	-	6	1	3	-	3	-	2	-	3	-	-	-
Measles.	343	-	770	2	175	-	228	-	1012	1	258	-	139	-	581	-	426	-	130	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	-	-	2	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Pneumonia.	7	19	24	20	31	24	53	11	55	11	34	18	59	20	46	19	92	12	46	8
Puerperal Pyrexia.	7	-	-	-	1	-	7	-	9	1	20	-	7	-	1	-	-	-	4	-
Scarlet Fever.	89	-	133	-	61	-	158	-	132	-	44	-	16	-	68	-	25	-	33	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	105	-	183	1	123	-	184	-	255	-	219	-	126	-	159	1	232	-	158	-
T O T A L .	568	19	1140	23	398	24	644	11	1470	14	597	18	389	21	867	20	797	14	386	8

NOTIFICATIONS OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

Including Inward Transfers.



DEATHS FROM PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

Including deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis
who were not notified prior to death

